Grand Vizier

Harold Weisberg

For some years now we in the Frederick are have been blessed by the ~~many~~ words of wisdom, once six times a week now, sadly, reduced to three (sadly because those ~~many~~ words were so good for the blood-pressure of ~~many,~~ many people, no doubt including some of his colleagues) on all things, great and small. He is, by his own modest account, an authentic authority on and lover of all things ~~XXXXXXX~~ Islamic. Particularly Egypt.

My own knowledge of Egypt is limited to my last reading of wire-service copy in my last daily reporting 40 years ago, my general reading over the years and two more recent first-hand accounts.

The first of these, from a retired scientist who, was one of the original developers of nylon, among his accomplishments, is ~~the the~~ that Egyptians ~~, who so lobe~~ love their Nile so much beautiful ~~ile, these~~ they use it to dispose of human wastes and dead carcasses, the better to prepare it for their drinking and other uses.

The second is from a medical doctor, himself an Arab, ~~who~~ last summer he took a nephew on a tour of Egypt, He was so overwhelmed by their best practise of medicine he spent weeks meditating upon it after his return ~~and~~ during prolonged hospitalization here after their "cure" ~~that~~ he decided never to set foot there again.

Having made these great improvements in the Nile and the conditions under which the people of Egypt live~~, improvements, that is, over the historical treatment of that great river~~ (these improvements consist~~ing~~ of awarding the waters a greater volume of human wastes and animal ~~carcasses~~ carcasses), the Egyptian government decided to spend the money with which it increases its enormous national debt on more materials for waging war. Egypt gave ~~and for giving~~ the population of the Gaza strip similar ~~the same~~ benefits. ~~avoiding, avpinf, naturally enough, any sewerage~~ For the 20 years of Egypt ~~ian occupation,~~ it avoided any sewers, ~~any~~ housing or educational institutions, even the right to enter Egypt itself. Stet (was denied) Blessed Palestinians!

Egypt surely is no less wonderful than our ~~Wizer~~ grand vizier tells us.

Recently he endorsed the Schultzian fiction of "land for peace" for Israel. ~~with~~ Schultz bent his ~~all~~ efforts ~~bent~~ on coercing Israeli acceptance of the fairy tale. Not that there had been any Islamic acceptance of it, for there has not been.

~~This is~~ Schultz, resurrected, the hoariest of Middle-East futilities.

When conqueror Britain subdivided the former Ottoman Empire, in serving ~~its~~ her own imperial interests, which included keeping ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Islamic oil dictatorships happy, she ~~it~~ used more than half of Palestine to establish a new Arab state, which ~~it~~ she celled Trans-Jordan. ~~It~~ England never kept ~~it~~ her promise of a homeland to the Jews in the rest of Palestine.

However, ~~its~~ her Peel commission offered Arabs 80% of the less than half of Palestine that remained in return for acceptance of a Jewish state in the less than 10% of what remained of the Palestine mandate. Then and ever since, including when the State of Israel offered to cede back part of ~~its terrtory~~ for "peace," all Arab interests have always rejected any such proposal without even discussing it. All Islamic states ~~are~~ except Egypt remain at ~~xx~~ war with Israel and all want Israel wiped out. ~~which~~ This is why they continue in a state of war with it.

~~This is stated~~ Wiping Israel out is explicit in the PLO's charter, too.

So, with whom is Israel to begotiate? With the Islamic powers ~~all of~~ which have not relations with it and insist upon a state of war - and won't ~~talk~~ even to it? With the PLO, which has the unchanged policy of wiping Israel out?

~~And~~ What happens to those Muslims who talk to Israel or ~~even~~ Israelis about ~~peace?~~ peace? Egypt's Sadat was assassinated after he agreed to the Camp David accords ~~with Israel. Huse~~ Hussein rules over Jordan, whose name he shorted need to hide its antecedents, only because his grandfather, Abdullah, talked to Israelis and was assassinated for it.

What Muslim ruler can hope to survive ~~any~~ making peace or a deal with Israel? ~~including the bad joke of giving the peace none has yet to agree to in return for land, which is less than 100% of the land they want, all of Israel?~~

How about the PLO and peace with Israel?

One of our eminence grise's favorite papers is The Washington Post, with which he was associated, he says in an executive capacity. Its Pulitzer Prize foreign

correspondent Jim Hoagland wrote about this almost the very moment while our pundit was endorsing the Schultzian fiction. Hoagland's oped article of June 30 headed "Afafat and the Fog Machine," begins: "For nearly two decades journalists, officials from any number of governments and well-meaning intermediaties have been trying to coax a commitment out of Yassir Arafat to make peace with Israel. A new round of coaxing has ended with yet another burst of fog from the chairman. ...It should be clear by now that Arafat is part of the Palestinian peoples' problem, not part of their solution. To pursue him breathlessly in the hope that he will modify by a comma... the PLO's tortured and inadequate formulations for Middle East peace is to play a mug's game Worse, it helps postpone the day when a genuine peace effort can be mounted. ... Arafat's unparalleled record of error, failure and myopia as leader of the PLO discredits any statement he could make about the Arab-Israeli crisis."

Arafat, who he says sported a pistol holder at the UN, prefers "the delights of being a warlord... and keeping the PLO and its treasury under his rule."

After mentioning a few of the Palestinian intellectuals he knew who were for peace - and, naturally, were assassinated - Hoagland refers to "the latest flurry in the small cottage industry that analyzes Arafat's Delphic utterances on peace and security," the written statement on this by Arafat's own spokesman. Taken by the rest of the world to mean that Arafat was agreeing to peace, his statement was disowned by Arafat, who Hoagland says, reasonably enough, had to have "signed off on" it.

Hoagland says there is no hope for peace for the Palestinians until they "dump both the chairman and the charter."

Even if Arafat were to agree to negotiate or to a formula for peace, there is no way he can carry the Palestinians along with him, they are that divided and that fratricidal. Abu Nidal, for example, wanted, indicted terrorist/murderer, especially of Americans, to our local sage only is an authentic hero and no terrorist. He has his own faction busily engaged, according to the Arab expert As'ad AbuKhalil (eight)

(graduate school, American University, Washington) in assassinating ~~all~~ those Palestinians who want peace with Israel. He and his gang have no monopoly on this fratricide.

So, with whom are the Israelis to negotiate, to make peace for land?

Not with ~~Srafta~~ Arafat, not with his PLO and its charter, not with any of its numerous factions, not with any Islamic power.

It happens that I do not like Shamir, his past or his government. But how can he make a real peace with all three warring factions, with nobody to agree to peace and with no possibility of any Muslim peacemaker surviving signing such an agreement - if he survives merely agreeing to talk about it?

This is but another part of the complicated reality of the tragedy of the Middle East our self- described expert does not trouble the minds of his readers with, as it is the reason there now is not and there now cannot be seen any peace there - the Muslims don't want peace. He has not, of course, deemed it worthy of mention that neither the PLO nor the Muslim world has agreed to peace or even to talk about peace. They all want Israel wiped out.

Meanwhile, aside from all the suffering of the refugees whose plight was contrived by the ~~Muslim~~ Islamic power's ~~as a~~ to drain ~~on~~ and pressure ~~on~~ Israel, the hundreds of murdered Palestinians in the warring factions ~~is~~ are only part of the great cost ~~of~~ to the Palestinians of Arafat's egomania, ~~on which he also has no monopoly,~~ and the Islamic world's policy ~~of the Muslim~~ designed world, to wipe Israel out eventually.

Too bad one does not have to be wise, honest, fair, truthful or even informed to be a vizier - and to be paid for it.

Too bad, too, that the people of Frederick have to be so deliberately misled and misinformed about this of the world's many tragedies.